

Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association Notes
Thursday, August 12, 2004, 7-8 pm, Harwood Park United Methodist Church
Betsy McMillion Chaired Meeting

Thank You: Linda Grimes, Ron Godfrey, M. Pauline Lisle, Jennifer Hagler, Lee & Amy Hoffheiser, Leo & John Neault, Jozette Cunningham, Betty on Loudon Avenue, and the One Stop Shop for allowing us to post community signs on their properties; Tracy Lowe for handling our 50/50 drawing to raise funds and keeping track of our association's money; Kathy Kemp-Abrams, Justin McMillion, Tim Raines, Gail Sigel and Dave Theilman for helping with the last neighborhood park clean up; Kathy Kemp-Abrams for her donation of perennial flowers for the park; Gwenn Bowers for helping everyone sign in; Jill Lloyd for securing the hall for us; Tim Raines & Mary Runkles for monitoring our neighborhood park; Candace Funk for leading the fight against new duplexes in our neighborhood; Tracy Lowe, Leo Neault, Dave Theilman & Jill Lloyd for helping with set up and/or clean up of these meetings; members of the Harwood Park United Methodist Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for our community meeting, neighbors who share community news to other neighbors, and especially those of you who give donations to our association (pay for copying handouts, neighborhood signs, etc).

Guest speaker: Diane Mikulis, Board of Education Candidate

Updates:

50/50 Tickets are available. If you want to play, see Tracey (\$1 per chance). One winning ticket will be announced at the end of the meeting and winner takes half; we keep the other half,

Notes from the July meeting were distributed. With no changes or comments from the audience, the notes were approved.

GECA update – Dave Grabowski announced that GECA would hold a candidate's night (for the upcoming election) at the next meeting on Thursday, September 23, at Elkridge Landing Middle School.

A new information kiosk has been installed at our neighborhood park. Community notices may be posted, but no commercial notices. If you have something you want posted, please see Betsy (who has a key).

Harwood Park Picnic was rained out on Sunday, August 1. The new date is Sunday, August 15. In the event of rain, the picnic will be held the following Sunday, September 22, agreed by majority vote at the meeting. Live music will be provided, a best desserts contest held and games. We need volunteers and the following equipment: 2 folding tables, bats, and softball. If you can provide any of these items or volunteer, please let Betsy know.

We need some new members for our 2004 Traffic Action Committee to analyze and troubleshoot some of our traffic problems around the neighborhood, If you are interested in joining, please sign your name on one of the sign up sheets in the back.

Neighborhood Crime updates. There have been a number of items stolen around the neighborhood lately, including vehicles. Please report any suspicious activity to the police immediately. We have asked Chris Merdon, our councilman, to help us get more police presence in our neighborhood.

A volunteer is needed to lead the community's crime watch program.

The Loudon Avenue bridge project is schedule to be completed in late September per Steve Sharar, Department of Public Works.

Variance hearing update (Melrose and Euclid Avenues). To date, we have not been contacted by the hearing examiner of his decision for the setback variance.

Traffic light construction has begun at Loudon/US Route 1. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is waiting for BGE to hook up the electricity, and SHA will post new traffic signal signs before the light will be operational.

The first plan for proposed duplex housing development (off Forest and Highland Avenues) was rejected by the county (a copy of the July 15 letter was passed around at the meeting). The developer has the right to submit a new plan with suggested changes. If anyone sees a new sign posted near the property for another plan, please speak up!

We have put in a request through Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning and Chris Merdon to stop future duplexes in our neighborhood. A meeting will be held later this summer to discuss options by DPZ officials. We have not received a response from Councilman Merdon.

Old (10 years or more) pictures or stories about Harwood Park or Elkridge are wanted.

Chris Merdon, our District 1 councilman, has been invited to come to our September community meeting to discuss in fill development and new housing planned along the US Route 1 corridor, and ask for his support.

Diane Mikulis introduced herself and gave us background on her qualifications for the Board of Education. Residents expressed their concern about overcrowding in Elkridge's public schools and the need for a high school in our area.

One other concern was brought up concerning the large trailer being parked in the middle of the road on Melrose Avenue, at the former Greyhound Rescue home. A neighbor who lives nearby stated that they believe the vehicle belongs to the renter. There is also complaints of loud music late at night and and an unusually high number of visitors going in and out of the property, at all hours of the day. We will contact the owners (Main Street Builders) and see if there is something that can be done.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, Aug 15 – Harwood Park Community Picnic at neighborhood park - 3 pm – off Woodburn Ave.
Sat., Aug. 21 – Elkridge Community Appreciation Parade – 10 am – Old Washington Boulevard (near Car Wash)
Sat., Sept. 11 – Park Clean up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am
Sat., Nov. 13 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

Next meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, on September 9, 2004, at 7 pm, at the Harwood Park Methodist Church hall.

Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/harwoodparkelkridge>

E-mail address: harwoodpark@hotmail.com